



Published by the Mountainside Restoration Committee - April, 2014

www.mountainsidehistory.org

A Tale of Two HOUSES

On November 2, 2013, a historic event took place in Mountainside when the Levi Cory House was moved from the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue to Constitution Plaza next to the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and across from the Mountainside Library.

On June 29, 1985, another historic event took place in Mountainside. The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House was moved from NJ State Route 22 West to Constitution Plaza near the Mountainside Library.

Both houses have earned their place in Mountainside's history (and the history of Westfield and the West Fields of Elizabeth before Mountainside formed in 1895). It is fitting to discuss the histories of these storied homes during this 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey.

Let's begin with the older Deacon Andrew Hetfield House which began in 1760 as the home of Deacon Andrew Hetfield. Andrew Hetfield was a deacon in the Presbyterian Church of Westfield. The original structure was a two-story, two room house – a kitchen on the first floor and a sleeping loft on the second floor. As the Hetfield family grew, so did the home. Two additions during the early and late nineteenth century resulted in a grand 10-12 room home.

Andrew's son-in-law, who lived in the house until 1853, was the Revolutionary War hero, Abraham Clark. The Hetfield House remained in the Hetfield family until 1946 when it was purchased by Walda Rosencrantz who ran the "Dutch Oven" antiques business there until 1984. In 1984, the house was purchased by



In the summer of 1985, the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House sat atop cribbing on Constitution Plaza waiting for its foundation to be poured before it was lowered onto a new basement and foundation.

developers who gave it to the Borough of Mountainside and it was moved by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee in 1985. It is believed to have been moved to land that was originally part of Deacon Andrew Hetfield's property.

Once moved in 1985, it took several years for the Committee to restore it so it was fit to be used as a meeting place and museum for Mountainsiders. Scott Daniels, Chairman of the Mountainside Restoration Committee says that "the Hetfield House was actually in pretty bad condition, worse than the Levi Cory House is in now." Thanks to donations and grants, the Hetfield House is now a jewel for Mountainsiders to enjoy.

The Levi Cory House is believed to have been built in 1810-1818. Searches of public records have been unable to pinpoint the exact year it was built. It may have been originally owned by the Woodruff family who were prominent local landowners and among the earliest settlers in the area.

The most important event to occur in the Levi Cory House was during 1892-1896

(continued on page 3)

From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL



Following are some of the many activities and announcements from the Mountainside Restoration Committee during the year. You are encouraged to take advantage of these programs and help support Historic Preservation in Mountainside.

BRICK FUNDRAISER: To purchase bricks for the next dedication, please pick up a flyer at the Mountainside Library, Borough Hall or go to www.mountainsidehistory.org. The next brick dedication will take place on Veterans' Day in November, 2014. These bricks make up the path leading to the front door of the Hetfield House and will be expanded to the Levi Cory House. The Committee

(continued on page 2)



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mountainside Restoration Committee (aka the Mountainside Historic Committee) was established to preserve the Borough's links to the past. The premier venues are the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House (circa 1760) and the Levi Cory House (circa 1810), both restored and continually maintained by this Committee. We strive to focus attention on our heritage through tours, newsletters, videos and many events during the year. Our mission includes maintaining the Hetfield House and Levi Cory House properties in perpetuity.

The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Scholarship Award



Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Scott Daniels, is pictured with the 2013 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award recipient, Hailey Senkarik.

At the eighth grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held on Friday, June 21st, 2013, Scott Daniels, Chairman of the Mountainside Restoration Committee, presented the Annual Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award. This award is presented to the graduating eighth grader who demonstrates excellence in a written essay explaining the importance of preserving historic structures in Mountainside, NJ. The 2013 award was presented to Hailey Senkarik. Contest entries are on display at the Hetfield House for all to read. Scholarship criteria announcements for the 2014 Award are available through the Deerfield School Guidance office.

VOLUNTEERS needed

The Hetfield House is a successful historic house, thanks to our wonderful volunteers who are a vital part of our organization. Volunteers keep the house maintained and allow us to provide so many wonderful events and services to our community. Areas where we could use some help include: Archives, Membership, Events, Exhibits, Fund-Raising, Grant-writing, Housekeeping and Gardening. As an added benefit to our students, ages 13 through 18, volunteering at the Hetfield House provides the opportunity to fulfill community service requirements. In the future, volunteers will also be needed for the Levi Cory House. No experience necessary! Please contact Sandra VanderMeer at hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com or call 789-9420 and leave a message which will be promptly returned..

CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

(continued from page 1)

will continue to sell bricks to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hetfield House and restoration of the Levi Cory House.

HISTORY OF MOUNTAINSIDE BOOKS: The most recent history of Mountainside: *A History of Mountainside – 1945-2007 – It Was Only Yesterday* by Connie McNamara is available for purchase at \$19.99 in the Mountainside Library. The original *History of Mountainside* by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$10 each, call 789-9420).

PUT A PLAQUE IN THE LEVI CORY HOUSE: Individuals, groups and businesses can show their support of the Levi Cory House restoration by “putting a plaque in” the Levi Cory House. Permanent brass plaques will be placed inside the Levi Cory House and remain there for the life of the house. These plaques will indicate your sponsorship of the architectural features contained within the house such as doors, windows, fireplaces, stairways, or entire rooms! You can show your support with a sponsorship, a dedication, an honor or a memorial. Your plaque will be a forever reminder that you helped save and restore this historic house.

HETFIELD HOUSE NOTECARDS: Classic ivory-colored, folded note cards are available for sale in sets of twelve with envelopes. They feature the Harry Devlin sketch of the Hetfield House on the front with a brief history on the back. The inside is blank. Anyone interested in purchasing the cards can do so at Borough Hall or at the Hetfield House during any open house or event. They are being sold for \$7.00 per set of 12 and make a great gift.

HETFIELD HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE: The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is available for use by community groups for meetings or tours. It is also available for rent to individuals or organizations for other events. For information on availability, please contact Lenore Toner at 233-7260.

For further information on the above-mentioned activities of the Mountainside Restoration Committee and updates on the Hetfield House and Levi Cory House happenings, please call 789-9420 or visit www.mountainsidehistory.org.

Scott Daniels - Chairman, Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

Scott Daniels, *Chairman*
Ruth Goense, *Vice Chair*
Carol Clark, *Treasurer*
Maureen Giannone, *Secretary*
Carol Goggi, *Newsletter Editor*

Alice Cowell, Donald Jeka, Thomas McGee, Diane Ruggiero, Nancy Spadaccini, Lenore Toner, George Urban, Sandra Vander Meer and Cynthia West.

Deanna Andre, *Borough Council Liaison*

Our invaluable volunteers who spent many hours helping us this past year and for who we are forever grateful: Artie Brahm, Kit Carson, Mary Faella, Maureen Goense, Peter Goggi, Walter Heckel, Pam Kisciras, Donna Klein, Kathy McGlew, Jason Pastore, Marlene Perez-Santalla, Karen Sforza, MaryJo Stearns, Sandy Wilson, Jean Wyrvatt and many others.

2014 Historic Restoration Committee CALENDAR

May 1-4: Annual Geranium & Plant Sale, Hetfield House, 10-4pm

May 4: My Doll & Tea - All are invited to attend the new and improved tea event at the Hetfield House from 1:00-3:00 pm. This year's event will celebrate the history of Dolls and the custom of afternoon tea. A local doll collector and expert will display her doll collection and discuss the history of dolls while guests enjoy an afternoon of tea and sweets. Guests young and old are invited to bring their own dolls to enhance the mood.

June 7: Mountainside's first-ever "Tour of Mountainside's Gardens." Watch for further information.

September 20: Garage Sale at the Hetfield House

October 18-19: Four Centuries in a Weekend Open House - Featuring Charlie Hummel as he displays and discusses the inventions of Thomas Edison in celebration of the 350th Anniversary of New Jersey

December 6: Cookie & Hot Cocoa sale at Boro Annual Tree Lighting - 4:30pm

December 6-7: Gingerbread Open House weekend (1-4pm)

Tale of Two HOUSES

(continued from page 1)

when the house was rented out by then-owner, Levi Cory, to a group of volunteers for use as the Children's Country Home. The Home was the summer residence of children who came to the "country" for a respite from their harsh living conditions in New York City. During the first summer, nearly 60 children spent two weeks at a time enjoying the fresh air and recreation that the West Fields and Mountainside offered.

During the first summer, many of these children were found to have various medical conditions which required care by volunteer nurses and doctors from the area. A local newspaper at the time stated: *"The Home has entertained this season nearly sixty children many of whom were sick and miserable when they came. All were greatly improved by their stay here and seemed to appreciate the kindness and care given them."*

Since the ailing children's health improved with the care they received at the Children's Country Home, it was decided that the home would house children with medical

needs in subsequent summers. In 1896, possibly due to the death of Levi Cory in 1895, the Children's Country Home needed to relocate. CCH volunteers had been saving money in a Building Fund and were able to purchase the neighboring Thomas Drew farmstead, occupying ten acres of nearby land on New Providence Road.

In 1962, the Children's Country Home was renamed Children's Specialized Hospital which remains today on New Providence Road and is currently the nation's largest comprehensive children's rehabilitation system.

Since the Children's Country Home relocated after 1896, the Levi Cory House was owned by various prominent families in Mountainside which became independent from Westfield in 1895. More recently, the house was the site of various businesses such as Barrett & Crain Realtors and Patterson Interiors. In 2013, the building was purchased by developers who, under an agreement with the previous owner, Dick Scott, agreed to give the historic structure to the Mountainside Restoration Committee to move.

site of a lively and well-attended Barbecue Dinner Dance held to raise funds for the Levi Cory House move.

GOLF OUTING AT ECHO LAKE COUNTRY CLUB: A beautiful day on Monday, July 29 helped make the Levi Cory House fund raising golf outing a huge success.

OLD & NEW AND CHRISTMAS, TOO BOUTIQUE: On Saturday, November 23, the Hetfield House was the site of a Holiday Boutique featuring the debut of "The Village Shop." Many shoppers enjoyed the unique holiday items and curiosities offered.

GINGERBREAD OPEN HOUSE: Gingerbread Open Houses were held on Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15, 2013. Adults were invited on a snowy Saturday afternoon for Holiday Cheer and Sing-Along with Santa accompanied by music from RMC Studios of Garwood. Sunday's open house hosted families and hundreds of people visited the house to enjoy music, crafts, delicious holiday treats, hot cider, a beautiful display of our community's talents at Gingerbread Creations and Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Performers included the Deerfield School Middle School music students and the Children's Choir from Our Lady of Lourdes Church.



Recently, the Levi Cory House was moved to a new location on Constitution Plaza. Members of the Mountainside Restoration Committee pose before the house where it currently is suspended upon cribbing.

The Borough of Mountainside agreed to allow the house to be moved to Borough property on Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Mountainside Library and Hetfield House. After a monumental fundraising effort, the Levi Cory House was moved on November 2, 2013. In the future, after foundation work and extensive restoration, the Levi Cory House is planned to be the home of a boutique and a museum devoted to saving and recording the history of various children's organizations in Mountainside.

DRAWING WINNERS announced

Each year, the Mountainside Restoration Committee holds a Spring fundraising drive for the upkeep of the Hetfield House. In 2013, the funds were earmarked and used for the purchase of computer hardware and software for the purpose of archiving historic materials. A drawing was held on May 5 from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners:

1st place: Sandy Wilson - "Tastes & Treats from Downtown" Gift Certificates (\$232)

2nd place: Henry Oberding - "Rt. 22 Dining Spree" Gift Certificates (\$175)

3rd place: Shirley Thompson - "Tasty Treats" Gift Certificates (\$154)

4th Place: Pat Biondi - "Prepare for Date Night" Gift Certificates (\$135)

5th Place: Ryan Bednarcik - "Supermarket Sampler" Gift Certificates (\$75)

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support! Please support this year's spring fundraising drive by purchasing and/or selling raffle tickets. See letter on page 4.

The YEAR in REVIEW

HISTORY'S WHEELS: Residents cruised down in their historic hot rods and other antique classics for the Mountainside Restoration Committee's third annual "History's Wheels" Car Show held on Sunday, April 14, 2013. Beautiful classics were proudly parked in the commuter lot adjacent to the Hetfield House. In the end, the spectators voted and the winner was Jay Taback and his 1953 Jaguar.

TEA & STRINGS: On Sunday, May 5, 2013, the Hetfield House was the site of a wonderful "Tea & Strings" event. Dozens of visitors enjoyed an afternoon of soothing string music with hot and cold tea and delicious home-baked sweets.

SPRING & FALL PLANT SALES: Sales of beautiful Spring plants were held in May and a Fall mum plant sale was held in September.

WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION: A wine and cheese reception was held at the Hetfield House on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 to kick-off the fund raising and promotion for the Levi Cory House move.

SUMMER KICK-OFF BARBECUE DINNER DANCE: On Friday, June 28, Our Lady of Lourdes' Pollard Hall was the



MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE, INC.

1385 US Highway 22, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092



April, 2014

To Mountainside Residents:

The past year has been a very busy one for the Mountainside Restoration Committee with raising funds and orchestrating the move of the historic Levi Cory House. Now that the house has been moved, our focus turns to restoring this circa 1810 structure to its 19th century roots, adding utilities and repairing structural issues. The sooner this work is done, the sooner the Levi Cory House can open to the public.

We are making this annual appeal asking residents for donations toward helping the Mountainside Restoration Committee raise funds to continue the restoration of the Levi Cory and Hetfield Houses. Much work is required before the newly acquired Levi Cory House can be made ready for the public to enjoy it as a boutique and a museum which will gather and exhibit the history of Mountainside's children's organizations. Enclosed is a raffle book which we hope you will use to purchase chances to win one of 3 fantastic prizes. Feel free to sell these to family and friends.

First Prize: *One week lodging in an Orlando FL, 2 BR villa—valued at \$2000 (to be used by 1/2015)*

Second Prize: *Two nights at the NY Downtown Marriott with 9/11 passes—valued at \$700*

Third Prize: *An Apple iPad—valued at \$500*

Please return the enclosed raffle stubs filled in with purchaser information along with your raffle donation using the pre-addressed envelope. Checks can be made payable to the "Mountainside Restoration Committee" and **should be returned no later than May 2, 2014** with completed stubs to Carol Clark, 308 Summit Rd, Mountainside, NJ 07092. The **drawing will be held on Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 pm** at the Hetfield House located on Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Library (winners do not need to be present).

We invite everyone to the Hetfield House on Sunday, May 4th from 1-3 pm for the drawing (2 pm) and to attend "My Doll & Tea" – an afternoon exploring the history of Dolls and enjoying the custom of afternoon tea. We hope you can join us. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The Mountainside Restoration Committee

Encl.

P.S. If you would like additional raffle books, please contact us at (908)789-9420